THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF COAL IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI C.K. JAFFAR SHARIEF): (a) to (c) The former Chairman of Coal India Limited was not in custody of the Share Certificate of Coal India Ltd. which stood in his name on behalf of the President of India. On expiry of his term of office he had to sign the transfer form; this he did on being asked to do so by the Department of Coal. No Departmental action is warranted in the circumstances of the case.

Price reduction of Low Density Polyethyline

513. SHRI M.S. GURUPADASWAMY: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to reduce the price of low density polyethyliner (LDPE);

(b) if so, what are the reasons therefor; and

(c) whether the reduced price will lead to the complete stoppage of production of LDPE in the country?

THE MINISTER OF INDUSTRY (SHRI J. VENGAL RAO): (a) to (c) At present Indian Petrochemicals Corporation Ltd. (IPCL), a Central Public Sector Undertaking, is the only manufacturer of LDPE in the country. As the domestic availability of LDPE is significantly short of the indigenous demand, import of LDPE is allowed on OGL for actual users as well as for stock and sale; IPCL has been effecting imports of LDPE to cater to the requirements of small scale units who find it difficult to organise imports on their own. IPCL offers indigenous and imported LDPE to the consumers at a pooled price which is adjusted from time to time depending upon the landed cost of imports. The pooled price was reduced by around Rs. 3 Kg. in December, 1988.

This reduction in the pooled price will have no adverse impact on the production of LDPE in the country.

Complaints against CMD of NEEPCO

514. SHRI VISHWASRAO RAMRAO PATIL: Will the Minister of ENERGY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware about several cases having been filed in the courts against the Chairman-cum-Managing Director of North Eastern Electric Power Corporation Limited, Shillong;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF POWER IN THE MINISTRY OF ENERGY (SHRI KALPNATH RAI): (a) to (c) The North Eastern Electric Power Corporation (NEEPCO) have informed that, as at present, excepting one case filed in the Court by one officer of the Corporation, challenging the promotion order of the Executive Engineers to the next grade of Superintending Engineers, and seniority of some of the promotees, no other case, or Notice from the Court, are currently pending.

Telephone facilities in rural post offices

515. SHRI VITHALRAO MADHAVRAO JADHAV:
SHRI SANTOSH KUMAR SAHU:

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to have telephone facilities in all post offices of the country;

(b) what is the percentage of urban and rural telephone connections in the country;

(c) by when all rural areas will have telephone facilities in the country; and

(d) what is the plan thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Percentage as on 31.3.88 is as under:

Urban 89.88%

Rural 10.12%

(c) and (d) All the villages in the rural areas in the country are likely to be provided with Telecom. facility by the year 2000 AD. As a first step, one public telephone will be provided in each of the inhabited hexagons (an area with 5 Km side) during the 8th plan. The facility will thereafter be expended gradually to all the villages upto the year 2000.

ED Employees

516. SHRI SHANKER SINH VAGHELA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) since when and for what purpose ED system was introduced in the country, whether Government have accepted the recommendations of Savoor Committee to abolish the ED system in urban areas and regularise the services of such ED employees else where, if not, what are the reasons therefor;

(b) how many ED officials are working in urban areas as on 31st December, 1988; and

(c) what is the number of officers/officials working in the Postal Directorate and how many of them are dealing with the problems of about three lakh ED employees?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI GIRIDHAR GOMANGO): (a) ED system which dated prior to 1866 has been introduced to cater to the limited postal traffic in various parts of the country where the justification for establishing a regular departmental post office does not exist. The recommendation of the Committee on ED system that no ED agent should be employed in urban areas has been accepted in general terms. However, in Press Sorting Offices the engagement of ED Sorters is to continue as the cost is to be recovered from press owners. It has also been proposed to countinue the category of ED Stamp Vendors, employment of ED Mailmen, ED Delivery Agents, ED Mail Carriers and ED Packers in sub-urban areas and small towns where there will be no justification for regular departmental employees of corresponding categories. The Committee on ED System has recommended continuance of ED system in the present form and has not recommended for making ED employees regular departmental employees.

(b) No separate statistics is maintained for the ED staff working in urban areas.

(c) The number of officers/officials working in Postal Directorate is 658. The problems of ED employees are dealt at various appropriate levels in the Department. In the postal Directorate, the problems of ED employees are dealt at various branches dealing with concerned subjects.

Regularisation of services of LD Employees

517. SHRI LAL K. ADVANI: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have implemented the judgement of the Supreme Court to absorb casual workers (who have completed one year's service) in P&T Department, if so, whether the LD employees will continue to get first preference in the matter of absorption in Group 'D';

(b) whether the Department of Telecommunications has regularised the services of all the casual workers who have rendered seven years service in the Department; and

(c) whether Government would consi-